

MONTANA TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCESS PROGRAM
FULL COMMITTEE MEETING
May 22, 2008
KALISPELL, MONTANA

Ms. Kirkland called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Committee Members Present: Linda Kirkland, Ron Bibler, Matt Bugni, Charles Charette, Colette Custer, Christy Keto, Cheryl Gillespie, Char Harasymczuk.

Committee Members Absent: Kristen Bruner-Kober, Erick Eck, Amber Lang

MTAP Staff Present: Connie Phelps, Connie Hiatt, Steve Johnson, Leyetta Way.

Supporting and Contributing Persons Present: Peggy Williams, DPHHS; Deann Willcut, DPHHS; Dixie Ziegler, Hamilton Relay, Christa Cervantes, Hamilton Relay; Russ Patterson, Hamilton Relay; CART transcription; Sign Language Interpreters Joanie Kerns & Stella Woodrum.

MOTION: Ms. Kirkland called for comments or discussion regarding the February 28, 2008 meeting minutes. Ms. Custer was not in attendance at this meeting, minutes stated she was. Motion to add absentee list to meeting minutes by Ms. Custer, seconded by Ms. Keto.

Public Comment:

Ms. Kirkland called for Public Comment – none offered

Subcommittee Reports:

Legislative/Budget: Ms. Kirkland requested that Mr. Bugni supply a final copy of the EPP item to the Committee at the next meeting (will be August 18, 2008).

NECA: Ron Bibler; Mr. Bibler presented information about CapTel web service, it is not necessary to have a CapTel phone to utilize CapTel web calling, however, a user must register.

Director's Report:

NASRA & TEDPA conferences will be held in Lowell, MA; NASRA conference dates: September 16 – 19, TEDPA conference dates September 21 – 25. Ms. Phelps requested that she attend NASRA & TEDPA and that Ms. Hiatt & Mr. Johnson attend TEDPA.

Marce French has resigned her position on the MTAP Committee and Julia Saylor, from Helena has been requested as a replacement for the Senior Citizen representative.

Progress is being made in the area of Information Technology Division and MTAP cooperation in regard to the database additions/changes MTAP has requested. These requests have been primarily of a report nature.

A brief synopsis of the MT Council on Exceptional Children (MCEC) conference held in Billings was offered.

Discussion of collaboration with various professionals ensued and included: Audiologists, Blind & Low Vision Services. Mr. Charette requested someone from MTAP staff to present a session at a Mine Safety and Health Administration (MHSA). Mr. Charette requested printed material with information about hearing loss and prevention of hearing loss to be used at the Rosebud Mine in Colstrip. Mr. Charette is involved in testing for hearing loss at an annual Mine Safety and Health Administration refresher lecture. All mine workers must attend this refresher.

MTAP has been approved for re-certification by the FCC.

MTAP is working with Sorenson VRS to install VRS equipment at school locations in Montana.

Contract renewals were addressed: Discussion with the Vice President of Hamilton Relay, Dixie Ziegler re: Hamilton Relay's bid to renew Hamilton's contract as Montana Relay provider.

Review of Weitbrecht Communications, Inc. bid to renew their status as our equipment provider.

Announcement of Deaf Awareness week observation – M.A.D. will have an event in Great Falls on September 27 and MTAP will have an event in Helena September 28.

Information was given to the committee regarding posting of each meeting's minutes to the Montana Relay website.

Discussion of revenue (10 cent surcharge) coming to MTAP from wireless providers.

Budget Report: Matt Bugni & Deann Willcut:

Spending is on track. Some equipment funds will be moved to outreach in order to take full advantage of MTAP funds.

Mr. Bugni addressed the fund balance use requests (EPP) which will include Video Relay Services (VRS) and Internet Protocol (IP) Relay. Projection for October, 2009 is that individual states will be responsible for 80 percent of the cost to oversee these specific types of relay transmission.

Hamilton Relay: Russ Patterson & Christa Cervantes:

Mr. Patterson gave an introduction and short bio for those committee members who had not had a chance to meet him prior to this meeting. Mr. Patterson also discussed his role in outreach with Hamilton Relay.

Ms. Cervantes presented figures related to service provided by Hamilton Relay, as well as break-out of reporting periods. It was resolved that Hamilton Relay present total billable minutes for State Fiscal Year periods.

Equipment Distribution and Training Report: Stephen Johnson & Connie Hiett

Mr. Johnson & Ms. Hiett explained features of the 9-1-1 "Emergency Connect" Phone. Discussion about MTAP liability in issuing a phone claiming "emergency use" ensued.

Outreach Report: Leyetta Way:

Ms. Way requested updates of committee members' biography information.

Discussion of outreach activities included TV advertisement, attendance at Health Fairs and seasonally local area fair booths (County and City events).

DPHHS Report: Peggy Williams

Ms. Williams gave a progress report of the potential new housing for Disability Services.

Ms. Kirkland called for any unfinished business.

None offered

New Business Action Items:

Hamilton Relay contract extension: Ms. Gillespie moved that the contract with Hamilton Relay be approved for one more year. Motion seconded by Ms. Keto and carried by the committee.

Weitbrecht Communications, Inc. (WCI) contract extension. Weitbrecht is offering a 3% discount on equipment for a two year extension. Mr. Bibler moved to extend the WCI contract for two years. Motion seconded by Mr. Charette and carried by the committee.

Committee member elections: Ms. Keto moved to nominate standing slate. Ms. Harasymczuk seconded and was carried by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17pm